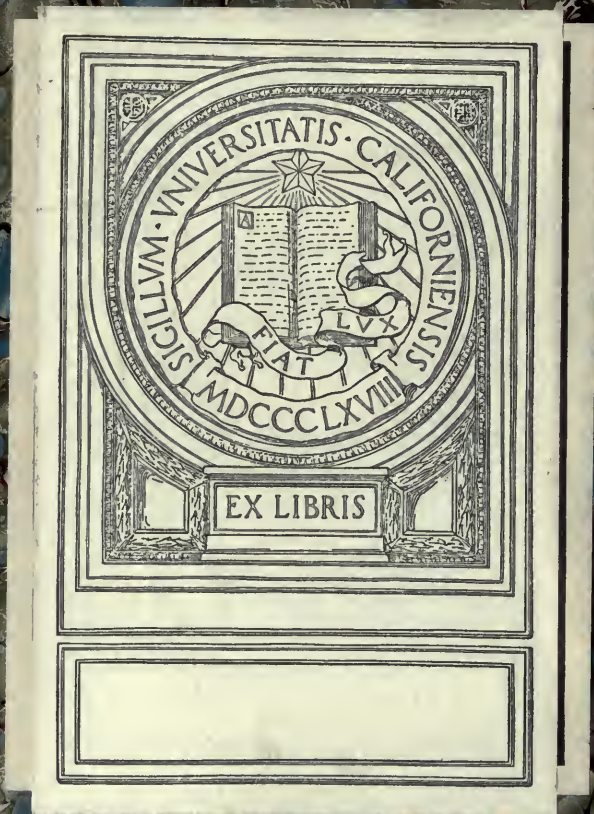


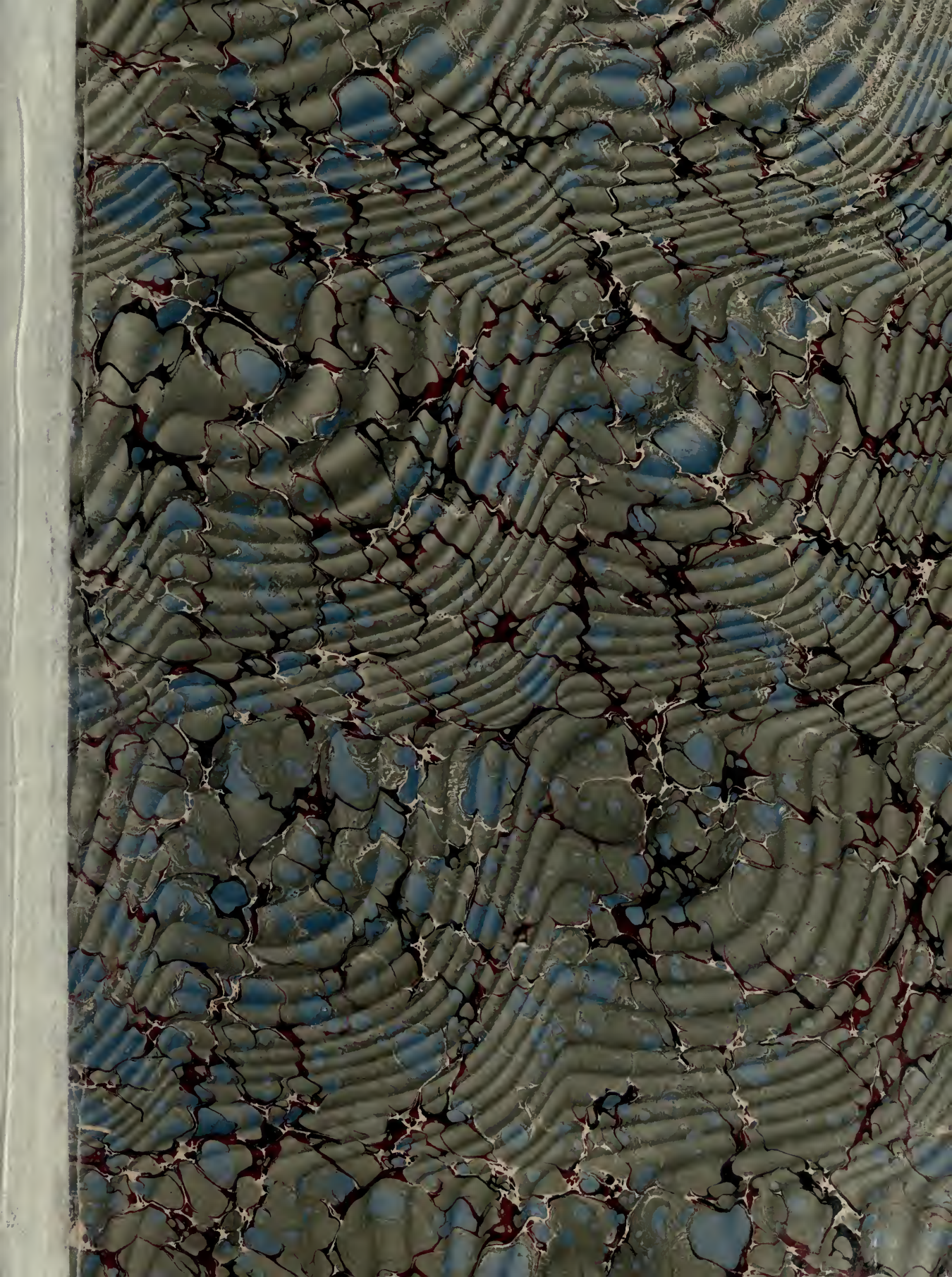
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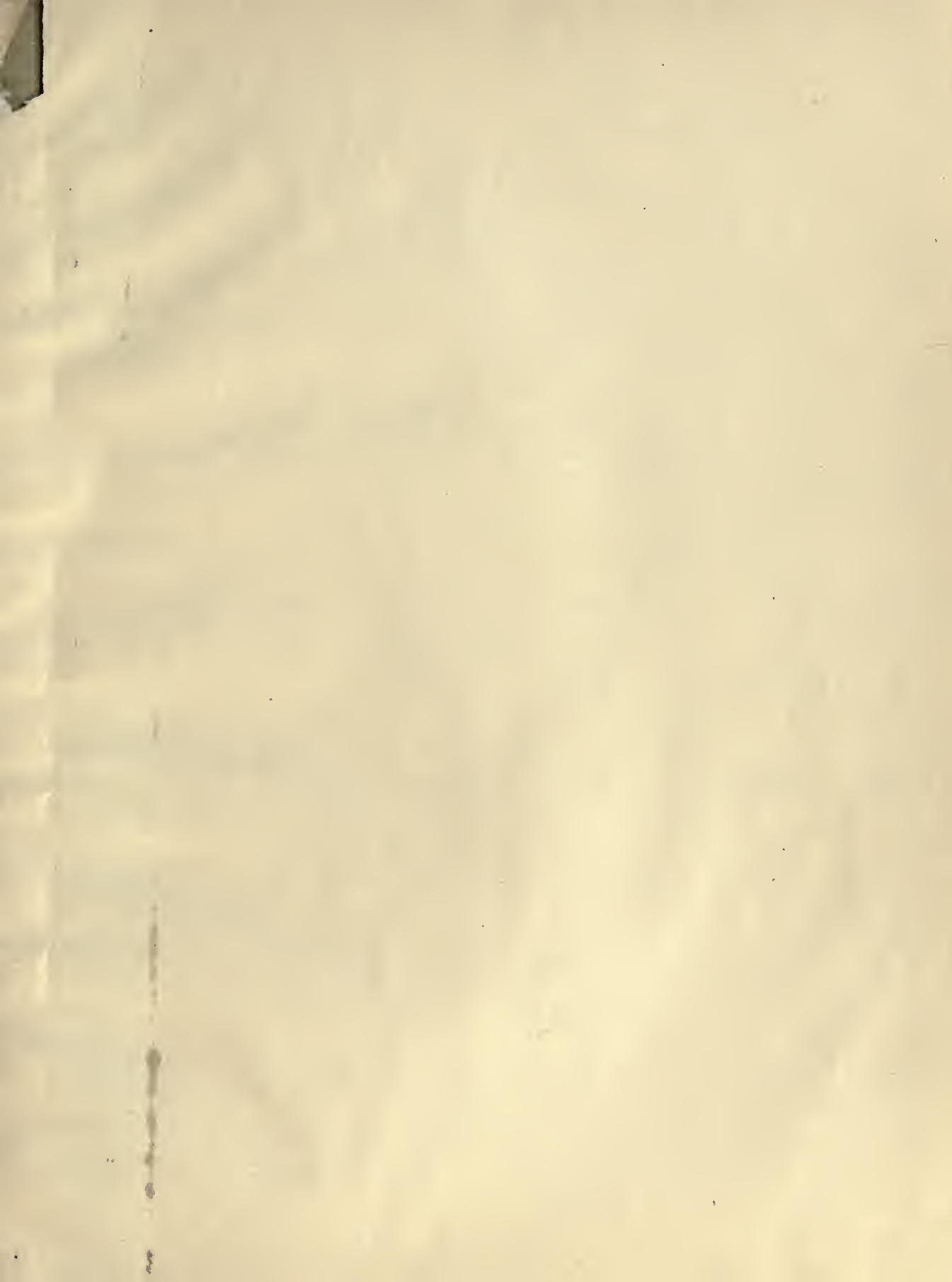
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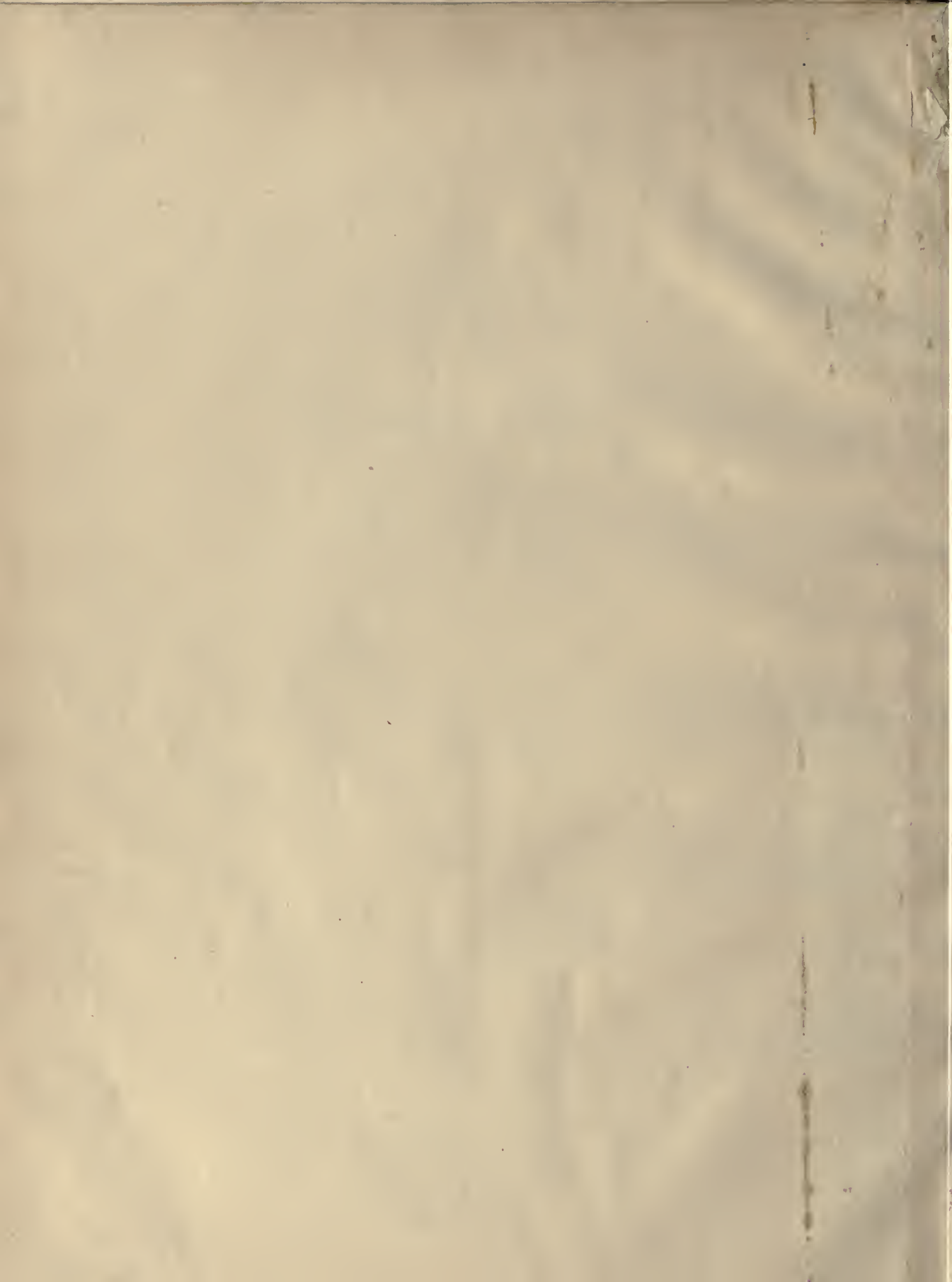




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THE
BLESSEDNES OF BRYTAINE,

OR

A CELEBRATION OF THE QUEENES HOLYDAY.

BY

MAURICE KYFFIN.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED A.D. 1587.

REPRINTED FOR

THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF CYMMRODORION

BY

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DA352
1587
K9

OF this little-known composition by Maurice Kyffin, a copy, supposed to be unique, is preserved in the Lambeth Palace Library. It was re-issued with additions in 1588, and of that impression there is a copy in the British Museum. The first edition was reprinted, but by no means correctly, in Huth's *Fugitive Tracts in Verse*, First Series, 1875.

This loyal effusion, like several others of a similar character which appeared about the same time, seems to have been called forth by the conspiracy of Ballard and Babington, who had been executed in the autumn of the previous year. Two Welshmen, Thomas Salisburie and Edward Johnes, or Jones, both of Denbigh, were implicated in that conspiracy and suffered on the second day, the 21st of September 1586.

THE
BLESSEDNES OF
BRYTAINE,

OR

A Celebration of the Queenes Holyday,

Conteining,

A Breefe reherfall, of the inestimable Benefits,

generally had & enioyed, not only all England ouer,

but also in forrein Partes, through the gracious Bountie,

and incomparable blessed Rule of our Royall

Queene ELIZABETH.

Composed, and set foorth, in due Reuerence, & ioyfull Memoriall,

of her Maiesties present entrance into the *Thirtieth yeere* of her

most triumphant raigne, with hartie prayer, for the

long continuing, and prosperous pre-

feruing of the fame: by

Maurice Kyffin.

Deum Time. Regem Honorate. 1. Pet. 2. 17.

Fiant preces pro Regibus & Principibus, ut tranquillam &

quietam vitam degamus, cum omni pietate &

honestate. 1. Tim. 2. 2.

Published vvith Authoritie.

L O N D O N.

Imprinted by Iohn Windet, dwelling

in Adling streete, at the signe of the White

Beare, neere Baynardes Castell.

1587.

Plura Posthac.

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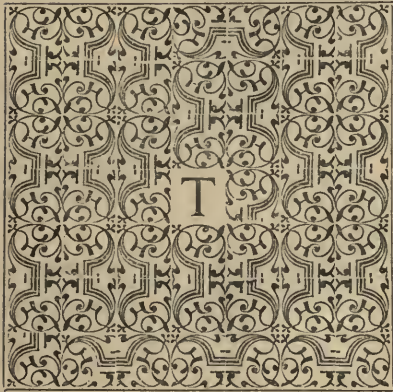
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TO VIRU
ABROGLAO

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TO THE RIGHT HONORBLE
and Renoumed in all Heroicall Vertues, Sir

*Robert Devreux Knight, Erle of Essex and Ewe,
Vicount Hereford, and Bourghier, Lord Ferrers
of Chartleigh, Bourghier and Lovain, and
Maister of her Maiesties horse.*



HE faithfull loue, and dutie, (Right honorable) long since deseruedly born, by my deceased Father, both to your lordships Noble Graundfather, and likewise to the famous and woorthie Erle your Father, (vnto whom for diuers respects, he was much bounden being alieue, & being dead, left the like Bond of dutie, in vs his Children towards your Lordship) hath the more emboldened me, (presuming on your Lordships great Courtesies) To publish, vnder your favourable protection, these my vnpolished verses, of her Maiestie: wherein, though I haue but shoven my leaden skill, in a Golden Cause, yet hath the same proceeded from such ardent desire, and deuotion in me, as thereby it may seeme, in some meane, to merit Tolleration, especially, sith it carrieth a dutifull remembrance, of her Maiesties most prosperous and peaceable raigne ouer vs: which hauing run the full, and Blessed Course, of Nyne and Twentie yeeres; doth now, begin the Thirtieth, to the great ioy, & inspeakeable comfort of this her royall Kingdome: In reuerend regard whereof, this poore Poem is most chiefly intended: I humbly therefore, present it to the Courteous acceptance of your most Honorable Lordship: Whome I beseech the Highest to blesse, and enriche, with increase of all perfect Honor, long life, and euer during felicitie.

Most humble at your good
Lordships commaundment.

A 2

Maurice Kyffin.

D. P. To the Reader.

TWO things make blisfull Realmes, *Religion* pure and *Peace* :
Which *Two* our England hath enioyd, long time with large increafe.
The God of peace be praisd , who grauntes our Birth and Being,
In this same *Realme* , with this *Rare Prince*, these *gladsome Seasons* seeing.
And pray we God likewise, this State still to defend:
Preferuing it, in perfect Peace , till that the world take end.
The Author of this booke, deferues a during fame,
Who chose a good Ground, for his worke , and wrought well on the same.

T. LL. In praise of this booke, and the Author.

WHO list to see her Noble deeds displaid,
Whose golden gifts, eche creature doth adore,
Whose Vertues Rare , haue hauty harts dismaid,
Whose Name, and Fame, encreaseth more & more :
Let them peruse this Poem, with Aduise.
By *Kyffins* pen, put down in perfect wife.

A work of woorth, befeeming well his Arte,
So fitly framd, and fraught, with tryed Truthe,
As may Reioyce, eche loyall subiects hart,
To heare, and see ; which hidden had bin Ruthe.
Our Queenes long Raigne, to our still during ioy,
The King of Kings, preferue free from Annoy,

J. H. In commendation of this worke, & the writer.

THE Persian *Cyrus*, *Xenophons* penne, *Achilles*, *Homers* found :
King *Alexanders* valure great, did *Curtius* stile resound,
Their worthie fame, those worthie wittes, to skies aloft do send,
Those worthie wits, eake by their fame themselues to fame commend.

Though skillfull Muses notes, come short to found this Princes prayse,
Her Princely gifts, her Iustice mylde, her Peacefull lasting dayes :
Yet *Kyffins* Muse in stately stile, hath shot so neare the fame,
That by resounding worthie praise, himself deserueth fame.

R. Cooke, in commendation of his friend Mr. Kyffin.

THE frutefull Muses seeme, to haue conspird, with full assent,
Vplifting *Kyffins* lore, with weightie wordes to work Content:
The subiect of his Verse, is facted, firme, and full of grace,
Whereon his Web is wrought, whose learned skill, none can deface,
Momus the carping God, to Cauill here can finde no cause,
And *Zoylus* spitefull wretch, hath here wherewith to stop his iawes.



THE BLESSEDNES
OF BRYTAINE.

Pearce Clio Muse, my weake, unwoorthie wit :
Caliope, set foorth my stile with strength ;
Unfold her Fame (with words foorth sounding fit,)
Whome Kings adore, & Lords in worldly length :
Whose Sacred Hand the Stately Scepters hold,
And Royall, Rules her Realmes in Crowned gold.

A Monarch Mayden Queene adorned rare,
With Regall Heauenly dowres, of diuers kinde;
In whome, who list dame Natures Workes compare,
With those rich Thewes, & Vertues of her Minde,
Shall much admire, at such a Myrrour sheene,
At such a Prince, at such a Peereles Queene.

The

THE BLESSEDNES

*The Starre of VVomen Sex, Graue Wifedoms store :
Sententious, speaking Tongs in filed phraze,
Profoundly learnd, and Perfect in eche Lore,
Her Fame, no Rav'ning Time, shall euer Raze :
Hater of Wrong, high Refuge eke for Right,
Concord, and Peace, continuing by her Might.*

* Besides that such manner of Reciting strange and Hethenish Names, were here altogether inconuenient. The author doth also of very purpose, somewhat shun that beaten high way, to fill paper with pestrering Names of faigned Gods, Goddeses, Nymphs, Persians, Grecians, Romans, &c. Being a thing of some sometimes vfed, too too much, and to little effect.

*VVhat should I Nymphs, or Goddeses Recount ?
Or Ægypt Queenes, or Romane Ladies * name ?
Sith as Supreme, our Sov'raigne dooth surmount,
In choice of Good, the cheefe of all those same ?
For to compare the Great, with simple small,
Is thereby, not to praise the Best at all.*

*Elizabeth, Large Light of Sov'raigne Seat,
VVhose Iustice, Prudence, Temprance, Fortitude,
Ingrafted yong, are grown foorth spreading Great,
Throughout the world, mong Nations wise & rude :
No land, but laudes this right Resplendant Rose,
Tutor to Friends, and Terror vnto Foes.*

As

OF BRYTAINE.

*As Shyning Sunne recleeres the darkned Skye,
And foorth recalles eche thing, from shiv'ring Shrowds,
So hath our Second Sunne, both farre and nye,
by brightning Beames, outcleerd erroneious Clouds :
A pow'rfull Prop of Christes Euangell pure,
One whose Support, it rests Reposed sure.*

The reestabli-
shing of the
Gospel, by
her Maiestie,
a work of in-
estimable
worth, euerla-
stingly fa-
mous for euer
and euer.
*Primaria Prin-
cipis Cura,
Religio.*
Dauid. 1. P. 13.
Afa. 2. Par. 14.
Iehof. 2. P. 17.
Ioash. 2. p. 23.
Iofias, 2. Reg.
22.
Hezechiah, 2.
Par. 29.

*Our Currant Coyne, was Mettall base and meane,
Till her most princely Grace, the same put out,
By perfect Gold, and pured Siluer cleane,
VVhich passe for cōmon Coynes, her Realms throughout.
A Deede, deseruing her Perpetuall Praise,
And Publik Profit, to this Land alwaies.*

*Argentum
tuum Scoria.*
Isaiah. 1. 22.

Base Coynes
abolished by
her highnes.

*Ad hereto Armour, and Artillery,
Of her most Royall Charges cheefely found ;
As store of Arming Steele defensuely,
And Roring Gunnes, far rendring fired sound ;
A furth'ring Strength for Peace, and safe Repose :
And Meanes, resisting Rage, of Warring foes.*

The royal in-
crease of Ar-
mour, & Ar-
tillery, by her
Maiestie for
the defence of
the Realme.
*Felix est ea
Res. quæ tem-
pore pacis,
Bella tractat.*
*Laur. Grimal.
de optimo
Senatore
fol. 71.*

I may

THE BLESSEDNES

The incomparable Naue Royall, built & maintained by her Maestie.
Pericles Athen. act: Vñā pecunie parādie rationem putandam, Naues quam plurimas habere, alias vero extra eam rationes, nullius momenti existimandas.

*I may not here omit in Silent sorte,
 Her Royall Ships strong wrought for stearnful warre,
 (VVhereof all worldly Realmes do raise Report)
 Through raging Seas discovering Regions farre:
 A Scowre-sea Nauy all bright & brauely burnisht
 Foorth spowting fire, faire, huge, and fully furnisht.*

Plentiful exercise of Religion: perfection in all kind of learning, & right whole some lawes, enioyed by her Maesties most gracious meanes.

*VVhen floorisht Learning to such Type of height?
 Or purefull Preaching, when had it more place?
 VVhen was Gods worde so knowne to euery weight,
 VVhich heretofore, did suffer such Deface?
 VVhen raignd Religion so deuoyd of cryme?
 Or rightfull Lawes, as in her Royall tyme?*

The Realme wonderfully enriched with Gold and Siluer. The earth most abundantly blessed with fertilitie, And euery man quietly enioying his own, vnder her highnes prosperous gouernement.

*VVhen was this Realme so rich of glittering Gold,
 Of plated Siluer, pearle, and precious stones?
 VVhen was more Tillage on this fertile Mold?
 Or more riche streaming Graces growne at ones?
 Or more Concordant life, in Country and Towne,
 Then since her Regall Highnes came to Crown?*

Her

OF BRYTAINE.

Her Sacred Senate *by their graue foresight,*
Provide for Publik Good and Ev'ls preuent,
Conseruing Common weale, from Perils plight,
In Rightfull Ruling, Concord, & Concent:

A Senate well besitting Such a Charge;
Prudent, & prompt in Lore and Wisdome large.

The vigilant
Care, and in-
cessant trauell
of her Maie-
sties most ho-
norable priuy
Councell.

From Wrathfull VVarre, her People rest in Peace:
From wasting VVoes, her Subiects liue Secure:
And yet our Neighbour Nations VVarres not cease,
Their dire distresse, and wailfull VVoes still dure;
The Most of Might, eke makes her Realm a Towre
Strangers to shield, from many a balefull Showre.

The most
blessed and
peaceable
state of her
Maiesties sub-
iects in com-
parison of o-
ther Nations,
round about
them.
Strangers gra-
tiously recei-
ued, and re-
leeued by her
Highnes,
within her
own king-
dom.

A Mightie Queene, pure with Compassion prest,
Rendring Reliefe, to Neighbour freends forlorn:
Her helping Hand, holds vp the weake distrest,
And hath the haughtie, dreadfull, oft downborne:
VVhereof Records, full rife remaining store;
*Note Scotland, *Belgia, and many places more.*

Her Maiesties
gracious aide
vnto her di-
stressed neigh-
bours abroad:
Regia (crede
mhi) res est
succurrere
lapis, Conue-
nit ut tanto,
quantus es
ipse viro.
Ouid. li. 2. de
Pon.
*Low Coun-
tries.

B.

Liberall

THE BLESSEDNES

Her Highnes
bountifull li-
beralitie.
Her Mercy
towards of-
fenders.
*Imperia duo-
bus potissi-
mum continē-
tur, Nempe,
Præmio &
Pæna: teste So-
lone.
Iusticia sine
Misericordia
Crudelitas.
Misericordia
sine Iustitia
fatuitas.*

Lib'rall Rewarder of Heroicall *Acts*;
Ritch in Reward, large giuing Gwerdons great;
Prone eke to pardon, many offending facts,
Yea though the same, concern her Regall Seat;
Rigor of Iustice, in *Reuenging Lawes,*
Mylde by her Mercy, wreake not eche Cause.

Her Maiestie
Princesse of
Wales, where
the Inhabi-
tants enioy
Gods worde
in their own
language,
through the
meere grace
& goodnes of
her highnes.

A Blessed Branch of Brutus Royall Race;
To Brytish wightes a Blisfull worldly ioy,
Puissant Princesse of Their Natine place,
To shield their Earthly liues from all annoy;
And to their Sickly Soules, a Sov'raigne Leche,
Graunting Christs Gospel, in their Country speche.

*A perpetual
memory of
her manifold
goodnes, in
steade of
Sonnes and
daughters.
*Præferre pa-
triam liberis
Regem decet.
Seneca in Tr.*

Princely Possessor of this Realme full Right,
And Heire apparant to the Heav'nly Crown:
Afsigned to serue Gods Truthe, with Maine & Might
Vpraising Vertue, Vice deprefsing downe;
Frutefull in Faith, though fruteles, wanting feere;
Such brings *shee* *Frute, in stead of Children heere.

Such

OF BRYTAIN.

Such *Rare, Renowned* Deeds, our *Queene* hath don
And more than my *poore powre* may well expresse:

** Omnis laus
virtutis in
Actione con-
sistit Arist.*

**Long* hath her *Raigne*, this *Glorious Race* foorth run
Long may it last, foorth bringing frutes no lesse:

** Violenta ne-
mo Imperia
continuit diu.
Sen. in T.*

Great is the Good, thus grown foorth, frō her Grace:
Great good shal grow, through her like lēgthned space.

O wretched Wights, that would this *Queene* enharme,
By close contryuing of her *Cruell Death*;

A reproof
vnto Tray-
tors.

What *curfed Circes*, could their mindes so charme,
As not to recke, to reauē their *Liege* of breath?

They rewar-
ded me Euill
for Good: for
they haue pri-
uily laid their
Net to destroy
me without
cause.
Psalms. 35.

Fell *Raging Rome*, all this is long of thee,
From whome, no *Troubling Treasons*, here are free.

Our kingly *Rooted Rose*, *fresh flowring* stands;
Garded by Gods great *Pōwre*, and *Prouidence*:
Amasing much, all *Traitours* trembling hands,
Which plye to pluck this *Plant* by violence:

Yea **Truthe* downe treading *Treason* vnto shame,
Victor suruiues, by vanquishing the same.

** Magna est
veritas, &
Præualet.
Esdra. 3. c. 4.*

THE BLESSEDNES

*Thrise happie Land, whose Sov'raigne Ladies life,
The Lord enlengthning, saues from soddein haps;
Though Ciuile Bronds, and forrein Furies rise,
Conioyning erst, haue threatned Thunder claps,*

*Si Deus nobiscum, quis contra Nos.
Paul. 8. Rom.*

*Yet Maugre Malice, Foes are put to foyle,
And safe remaines, our Sov'raigne, & our Soyle*

*The Angel
of the Lord
tarryeth about
them that fear
him, and that
put their trust
in him.
Psal. 34.
There is no
King that can
be faued by
the multitude
of an Hoste,
&c.
Behold the
Eye of the
Lord is vpon
them that fear
him, and that
put their trust
in his Mercy.
Psal. 33.*

*Thrise happy Queene, acknown of God so deere,
Gainst whome, what secret Mischeefs haue bin sought,
But that the same, would presently appeere,
By meanes Miraculous, as yet unwrought?*

*A Sured Signe, whome God protects to Ioy,
No lurking Ev'l, can thereto worke Annoy.*

*The prayer &
wish of all
good Sub-*

*O Glorious Ruler of the glistring Hev'n,
Prolong her Health, with Heapes of happie Yeeres,
That as her Rule hath Raignd twice Lev'n & Sev'n,
So may she still, surpas all Potent Peeres,
To liue, and long time wield the Ciuile swoord,
As far, as course of Nature can affoord.*

Far

OF BRYTAINE.

*Far Forrain lands, beare witnesse of her Name;
Far furling Seas, haue felt her warlik Ships;
Both Seas, & Lands, foorth thunder out her Fame,
Through force of flowring Acts, free from Ecclips:
Elizabeths due praise shall neuer dye,
In Earth, nor Seas, nor in the starrie Skye.*

*Fama manet
facti, posito
velamine, cur-
runt; Et me-
morem Famã,
qui bene ges-
sit habet.
Ouid. li. 2.
Fast.*

*Right Reu'rend Princeesse, rare is thy Renown,
Though Spitefull Enuie, spue foorth poysoned gall;
Naught shall it craze, thine Acts Eternall Crowne,
Nor minish much, thy sound successe at all:
No Best may shunne fell • Enuies sowerfull stench,
Whom Kezars, Kings, & Queenes, haue faild to
(quench.*

** Ars prima
Regni, e st pos-
se Inuidiam
pati. Senec. in
Herc. Jur.*

*As Highest Hills, bide fiercest force of VVeather,
And Tall Trees tops, beare greatest stressse of VVinde,
As finest Blacke, yelds showe of smallesf fether,
And in Pure VVhite, the least black Mote we finde:
So Enuies shaft, is shot at • Highest Marke;
And pries in Purest Things, whereat to barke.*

** Summa petit
liuor, per-
stant altissima
venti.
Ouid.*

No

THE BLESSEDNES

**Iniqua nun-
quam regna,
perpetuo ma-
nent.* Senec.
in Med.

*No Ruler Such hath weld this Realme of yore,
Fewe Realmes haue ioyd, so long a *Peacefull Rule :
No Realme is read, t'haue Rul'de bin heretofore,
By such a Queene, safe quelling Ciuile Brule;
VVho raigning still, a Prince withouten peere;
Her highnes now, holds on her Thirtieth yere.*

**More fit to
be solemnized,
than many other
dayes noted
in the Kalender.*

*Adore Nouembers sacred *Sev'nteenth Day,
VVherein our Second Sunne began her Shine:
Ring out lowd sounding Bels; on Organs play;
To Musikes Mirth, let all Estates incline :
Sound Drumes, & Trūpets , renting Ayre & Ground
Stringd Instruments , strike with Melodious sound.*

*Ye Mightie Men of Mars ennobled Knights,
Aduance your selues , on fiery foming steedes:
Reuiue This Tymes Remembrance, with all Rights,
In Armour bright, and gorgeous warlik weedes:
At Tylt , & Turnay, trying Martiall Might;
And Battring strokes, at Barriers forceful fight.*

Ye

OF BRYTAINE.

*Ye Cuntry folke, foorth stalking in your feelds,
Lowd Carols sing, to celebrat This Tyme;
Show Signes of ioy (as Cuntry manner yeldes,)
In Sporting Games, with Daunce, and rurall Ryme:
Eche Swayne, and Sheppard, sound his piping Reede,
For ioy, enioying Feelds, & Flocks to feede.*

*Ye Bryttish Poets, Repeat in Royall Song,
(VVith waightie woords, vsde in King Arthurs daies)
Th' Imperiall Stock, from whence your Queene hath sprong;
Enstall in verse your Princeffe lasting prayes:*

**Pencerddiaid, play on Auncient Harp, and Crowde:*

**Atceiniaid, sing her prayeses pearcing lowd.*

*Masters in
the Science of
Musick.
*Expert men
in singing.

*Let Hilles, & Rocks, rebounding Ecchoes yelde,
Of Queene Elizabeths long lasting Fame;
Let woody Groaues, and VVatry Streames be fild,
And Creeks, & Caues, with sounding of the same:
O Cambria, stretch, & straine thy vtmost breth,
To praise, and pray for Queene Elizabeth.*

Her

THE BLESSEDNES, &c.

Let euey
faithfull sub-
iect say
Amen.

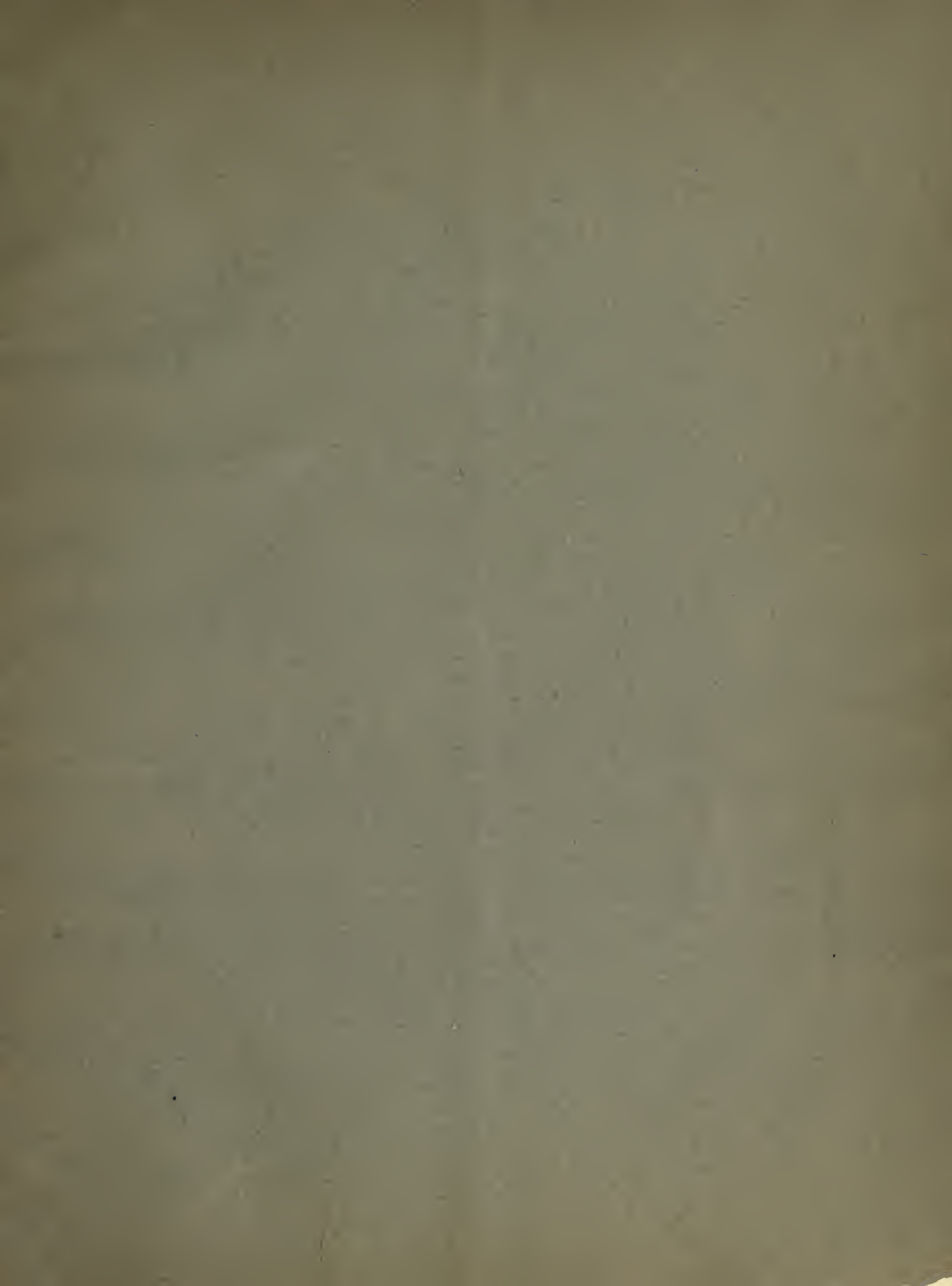
*Her Third tyme Ten yeres Raigne, we now possesse ;
Thrise three times Ten, god graūt her grace may raign
To this her Realmes long wisht for wealfulnesse,
VVhereby, eche long erst Losse, it may Regain :
And so Redound, the happiest Realme for ay,
Vnturnd from Truthe, ev'n till the Latter Day.*

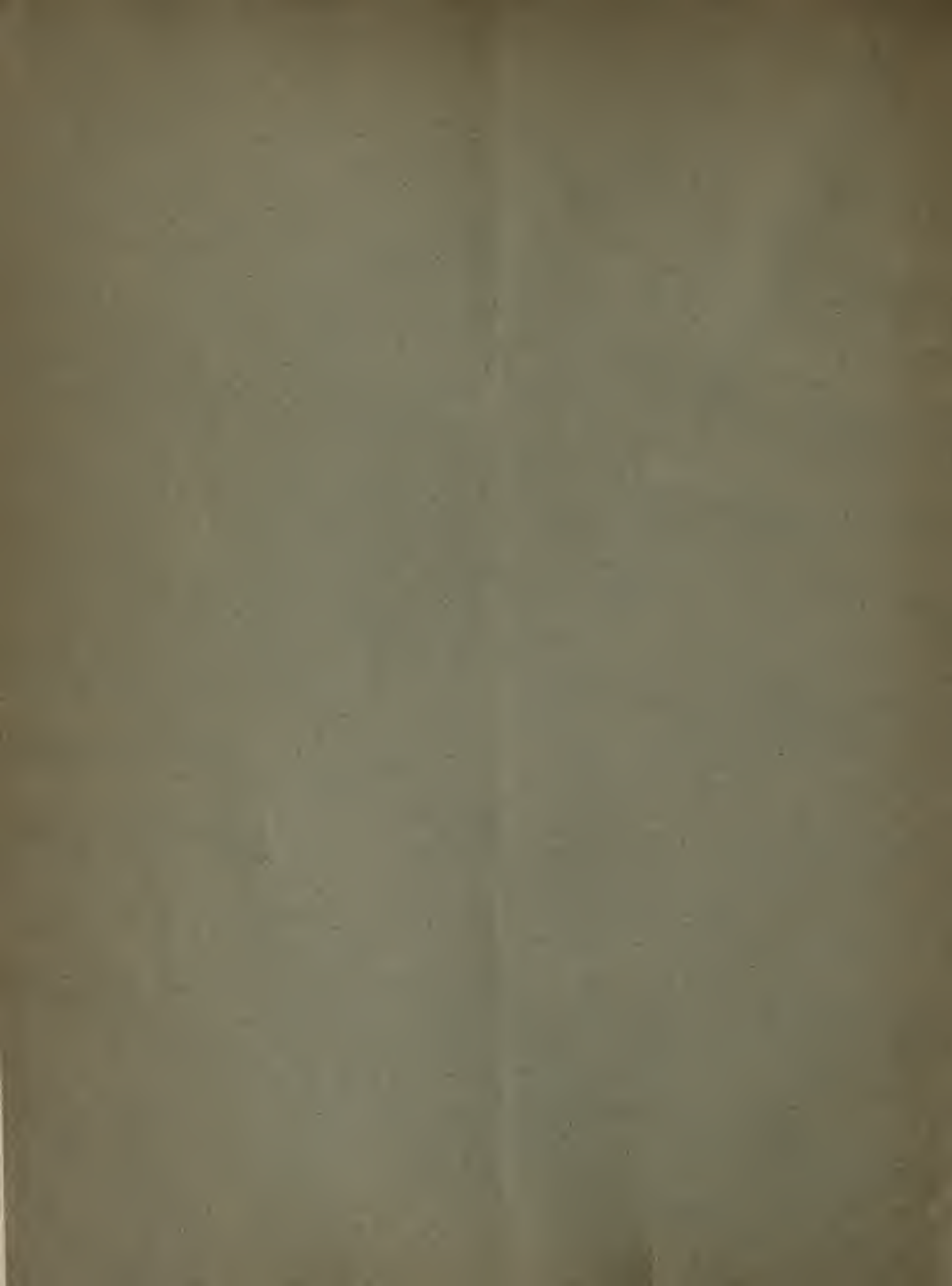
God Preferue Queene Elizabeth.

Pfalm. 147.

*O Hierusalem praise the Lord : Praise thy God, ô Sion.
For he hath strengthned the Barres of thy Gates: And
hath Blessed thy Children within thee . He hath made all
thy Borders Peace: And with the good Nutriment of Wheat
doth satisfe thee, etc. He hath not done thus to euey
Nation els : Praise we all the Lord therefore . Amen.*

F I N I S .





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